



Interlocking

Genesis 2: 23 NIV

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman, 'for she was taken out of man."

How Connected Are You?

After two days of marriage while honeymooning in a hotel on the beach in Florida, I decided it was time to bring football into our relationship. Coolly without any sense of the risk I was taking, I turned on the TV and switched the channel to Monday Night Football. The Raiders were playing the Denver Broncos and I had been looking forward to the game all day. I figured that Mary Jo could enjoy it too and we would have a time of bonding as we relaxed in bed and enjoyed the game. No I did not think she would want to go out to eat. I was not aware of any interest she had in watching a romantic comedy or strolling along the beach or "concentrating on her". It just seemed so perfect that the Raiders were playing on national TV when I had some time off from work and school. What wife...newlywed wife on her honeymoon...would not want to watch a football game with her husband as they were beginning their marital bliss together? Well...let us just say it did go as I thought it would that evening. Clearly I did not do a good job reading the room!

Life can be awfully interesting when two people get together. Not everyone makes a good co-worker. Some friendships don't work well. Marriages go south. Relationships between children and their parents can become strained. Teachers don't always like their students and students talk badly about their teachers. Family members argue and avoid each other. Churches split apart. Pastors don't get along with the people in their church and church leaders fire their pastors. It is not easy being with people sometimes. Depression, anxiety, pent up anger, alcoholism, despair are often attributable to broken relationships. Yet it wasn't always this way. At one time there was perfect harmony between everyone on planet earth. It just didn't last.

When John Lennon wrote his melodious hymn to a utopian world order, he intentionally left God out of the equation. "Imagine" was catchy and even God loving people sang along to it when it hit the music charts in 1971. *Imagine there's not heaven, it's easy if you try, no hell below us, above us only sky, imagine all the people living for today. Imagine there's no countries, it isn't hard to do, nothing to kill or die for, and no religion too. Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope some day you'll join us and the world will be as one...* Consider this. Lennon was imagining how life was when it was just Adam and Eve living together but there was one important additional figure who made such a life of unity possible. The Lord was present and it was His life that joined the two and made them one.

We have seen many times over the course of history attempts made to force unity among the people without God. Adolph Hitler and Nazi Germany, Josef Stalin and Communist Russia as well as Robespierre

and the French Revolutionary government each tried to make a go of it but all these so-called utopian societies did was initiate some of the most horrific slaughtering of their own people seen in history. Communist China and North Korea have imprisoned and killed countless millions of their own citizens in the effort to just “get along” without God.

When the Lord began to build a world with people in it, He started it off in a most surprising way. First He created Adam out of the dust of the earth and then He created his wife Eve. **So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.** (Genesis 2:21-22 NIV) From this point forward, every person was genetically interconnected with every other person. The woman could never say that she was not a part of her husband nor could the man say his wife was not a part of him. They were connected biologically by their genetic unity which God made into a spiritual bond. **For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.** (Genesis 2:24 NIV)

In the Garden of Eden before Sin wrecked it, there was the makings of a social structure without walls of separation between people. It was a nationless, raceless, statusless order that allowed for perfect union. There was no “us against them” but just us. All the components needed to produce every type of human being we now see was within the genetic unity of Adam and Eve and whoever might have been produced by their union would have been brought into the flawless harmony everyone else shared. Imagine no disdain for another person because of the shade of skin color, the shape of the mouth or eyes, the gender or birthright or political orientation or religious beliefs being held. It was God who was in charge and each person found out what was true by just talking with Him. There were no dogmas, no partisan attack pieces, no wrangling over who was right and who was wrong, no disdain for differences, only the joy of knowing God made each person perfectly and any question that could cause disagreement would be answered by Him.

Consider Jesus' command, “Love your neighbor as yourself”. This would have been logical to Adam as he looked at Eve for his exclamation as he awakened to find her was, **"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."** (Genesis 2:23 NIV) The disconnect between people because they fail to see just how joined they are to all those around them is not how it once was. It was clear to Adam that what was in him was in Eve too. How can you hate when you see yourself in every person there is? The biological link between us was even more obvious then than it is now for “as yourself” was not metaphoric, it was actual and literal. When what makes up you makes up those also around you, then only sin creates the divisions we find now. They weren't there in the Garden of Eden.

Lily Tomlin the comedienne once complained, “Why is it when we talk to God, we're said to be praying—but when God talks to us, we're schizophrenic?” Imagine living so closely to God that any question you have is answered by Him. No longer would there be Baptists and Catholics and Presbyterians and Calvinists and Armenians and liberals and conservatives and all the other sectarian ways people practice faith. God would just have told us how things were and it would have been clear what to think about them. Answers would be easily found and artificial intelligence would never have been needed for real intelligence would have been available to us every time we had a conversation with the LORD. No Google search engines and no controversies over “right and wrong”. Right was really right and wrong really wrong. God had every bit of information His people needed available to them as they lived perfect lives of happiness and tranquility. All they had to do was ask.

Without God involved and in charge, there can never be harmony with all people. There will always be fractures between them. The math for a God-less society is one and one and one and one equals all the ones as separate ones. With God putting people together it is one plus one plus one in union forming

something altogether new and better than each one by itself. There was within the Garden a society joined together supernaturally by love. Not common love but God-love...love that is comprised of God, generated by God and infused by God. We have nothing in our vocabulary that can describe this properly. Love is generally thought of as a feeling, a way of thinking but God-love is being, it is God operating within and between each other person. Try to think of a plumber repairing a pipe. The fixing of the pipe is not an idea or a feeling or a way of looking at pipes. Imagine the plumber changing the physical pipe itself by becoming the pipe. So it is with God-love. It is God Himself working within and between those who gain His love. He was the union between Adam and Eve and any others who would have joined them if Sin had not destroyed the fabric of the Garden of Eden.

Given all the fights and broken marriages and divisions in families, let alone within communities and even in churches, it is hard to grasp just what it must have been like for Adam and Eve to live in perfect unity. Imagine the people of a city who have always had to breathe dirty, smoky air being told of smokeless breathing. It would be incomprehensible to them. Smokey air was what always was. Yet in Jesus Christ we will one day live in perfect harmony, peace and love. The Garden of Eden provides us a glimpse into what the future holds as the Kingdom of God comes into full view. With Jesus Christ as Lord, sin destroyed and all sources of division gone between us, we shall once more a sinless society filled with love for one another and unending joy in every relationship. Take a moment to ponder what a great victory God accomplished when He was crucified and the body of sin was killed on the Cross. Now we really can live together and never fight or argue or be torn apart by life or death. It is something to consider. This life we have with God.